

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). An instrument insertable into a medium and being capable of detection by sonic imaging equipment comprises:

an elongate member, for insertion into said medium and having a region the position of which it is desirable to monitor;

bubble generating means, generating a plurality of discrete mobile bubbles at said region, whereby said bubbles are detectable by sonic imaging equipment, characterised in that;

said bubble generating means comprises two elements which, upon contact with each other in the presence of a fluid, react with each other to produce said gas bubbles and in which said elements comprise first and second radially displaced layers of said elements within a fluid permeable carrier material.

2 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 and further including a fluid permeable intermediate layer between said two element containing layers.

3 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~ and further including a foundation layer on said instrument upon which are deposited said element containing layers.

4 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 3 in which said foundation layer comprises a fluid permeable layer.

5 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 and including a primer layer on said instrument upon which said fluid permeable carrier material is deposited.

6 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 4 or 5~~ Claim 4 and including a primer layer on said instrument upon which said fluid permeable foundation layer is situated.

7 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1 in which said carrier material comprises a hydrophilic material.

8 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1 in which said carrier material comprises Hydrothane™.

9 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1 in which said two elements comprise citric acid and sodium hydrogen carbonate.

10 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 9 in which the citric acid comprises dissolved citric acid.

11 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 in which said first layer comprises a radially inner layer and comprises citric acid and said second layer comprises a radially outer layer and comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate.

12 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1 in which said first layer comprises a radially inner layer and comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate and said second layer comprises a radially outer layer and comprises citric acid.

13 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 2 to 12~~ Claim 2 in which said intermediate layer comprises a hydrophilic material.

14 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 13 in which said hydrophilic material comprises HydrothaneTM.

15 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1 in which said elongate member includes a prepared surface prepared by solvent degreasing or wet blasting.

16 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 15 when having a wet blasted surface.

17 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 5 to 16~~
Claim 5 in which said primer layer comprises an acid etched layer.

18 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 5 to 16~~
Claim 5 in which said primer layer comprises a chromate free water based primer
(Cytec BR6752) or Chronoflex™ AL8OA.

19 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 18~~
Claim 1 in which the ratio of bubble generating means to carry material in said first or
said second layer is between 20% and 200% by weight.

20 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 19~~
Claim 1 in which the ratio of the first to the second reactive agents is substantially 50/50
(by weight).

21 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 20~~
Claim 1 in which said bubble generating means is provided at one or more discrete
portions along said elongate member.

22 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 20~~
Claim 1 in which said bubble generating means is provided along a substantial length of
said elongate member.

23 (original). An instrument substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 to - of the accompanying drawings.

24 (original). A method of producing an instrument as claimed in Claim 1 comprising the steps of:

- c) depositing onto the instrument a first layer containing a first of two elements which, upon contact with each other in the presence of a liquid, react with each other to produce gas bubbles, and
- d) depositing onto the first layer a second layer containing a second of said two elements.

25 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 24 including the further step of depositing a fluid permeable intermediate layer between said first and second layers.

26 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 24~~ including the further step of depositing a foundation layer on said instrument prior to deposition of said first layer.

27 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 24 in which the foundation layer comprises a fluid permeable layer.

28 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 27~~

Claim 24 including the further step of depositing a primer layer onto said instrument prior to any of the layers of ~~Claims 1 to 4~~ as defined above.

29 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 28~~
Claim 24 in which the first and second layers comprise a hydrophilic material.

30 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of the Claims 24 to 29~~
Claim 24 in which said first and second layers comprise HydrothaneTM.

31 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 30~~
Claim 24 in which said two elements comprise citric acid and sodium hydrogen carbonate.

32 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 31 in which said two elements comprise dissolved citric acid and sodium carbonate particles.

33 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 32~~
Claim 24 in which said first layer comprises citric acid and said second layer comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate.

34 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 32~~
Claim 24 in which said first layer comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate and said second layer comprises citric acid.

35 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 25 to 34~~
Claim 25 in which said intermediate layer comprises a hydrophilic material.

36 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 25 to 35~~
Claim 25 in which said intermediate layer comprises HydrothaneTM.

37 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 36~~
Claim 24 including the further step of preparing the instrument surface by solvent
degreasing or wet blasting.

38 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 28 to 37~~
Claim 28 in which said primer layer comprises an acid etched layer.

39 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 28 to 37~~
Claim 28 in which said primer layer comprises a chromate free water based primer
(Cytec BR6752) or ChronoflexTM AL8OA.

40 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of the Claims 24 to~~
~~39~~ Claim 24 including the step of adding the first and second elements to a carrier
material to form said layers and in which said elements are added to said carrier
material in a ratio of between 20% and 200% by weight.

41 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 40~~
Claim 24 in which the first and second reactive elements are added in a ratio of
substantially 50/50 by weight.

42 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 41~~
Claim 24 including the step of applying the layers at one or more discrete portions along
said elongate member.

43 (currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 24 to 40~~
Claim 24 including the step of applying the layers at one or more discrete portions along
said elongate member.